

THE LOON CRIER

CAMPING SERVICES



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WRAPPING UP THE SUMMER: ARTIE LANG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CAMPING SERVICES

I always find it truly amazing just how quickly it gets quiet around Camp. It seems like such a short time ago we were putting in docks, turning on water, and gearing up to see all our old friends as well as meet our new ones. Then all of a sudden it's gone. Gone are sounds of children laughing. Gone are the dances by kids of all ages. Gone are the skits, craft or woodshop projects, and worst of all the people. The year round folks work incredibly hard from October through May to get ready for the summer and before we know it, it's gone in a flash of fun, friends, and frolic. I believe that only something truly special can fly by so quickly and I would like to thank each and every North Woods, Pleasant Valley, Sandy Island and Laughing Loon camper for a truly incredible summer.

I especially want to congratulate Kate Lemay and Graeme Donald for doing an amazing job in their first summers as director. They were great and really provided a breath of fresh air for Sandy Island and North Woods. Because of their efforts, along with Liz Young, I believe the staff was better suited to do their jobs and therefore campers and families had one of the most enjoyable experiences on record.

On a personal note, to all of you amazing Sandy Island families, campers and staff alike, I'd like to thank you for being so incredibly warm and welcoming, making both Kate and I feel at home. We had a remarkable summer learning so much, making new friends, and growing excited for a great future.

North Woodsmen and Pleasant Valley ladies, I appreciate your patience through the wet weather early in the summer. It is never easy and you all kept your spirits up and took advantage of every ray of sun we had. Our counselors never cease to amaze me with their creativity, energy, and commitment to all

of our campers. We have so many great plans already on paper for next year that we can hardly wait the 225 days (give or take) until Camp starts again. We hope to see all of you back to enjoy what will easily be the best summer ever!

Now is the time of year where we take a second to catch our breath and revel in some beautiful fall weather, listen to the sounds of the loons and watch the days get shorter and shorter. Don't worry! We won't rest long and then we are back at it hiring staff, recruiting and registering and starting our Annual Reach Out campaign. Be on the look out for opportunities to volunteer, donate, and come to Camp over the next year.

You all are the best!

Thank you so very much!

Yours in service,

Artie

CAMPING SERVICES



**Artie Lang, Executive Director with Wife,
Christina Lang**



Enrollment 2009: Amy Goodman, Business Manager

Hello Parents, Campers, and Friends,

Well you did it again! Congratulations on another fantastic camp season. We could not have done this without your continued support and commitment to North Woods and Pleasant Valley Camps. As we look ahead and prepare for our 2010 camp season we are both excited and challenged. We know the struggling economic climate is a stress for both ourselves and our camper families, but do not wait to register. Ease into the cost of camp by registering now to take advantage of small monthly payments from now until June. Please call the office to discuss further options... we want to help. Applications are available (see attached file below). Online registration will be available by the end of October via the website.

Registering for camp is easy. Complete an application card and submit it with the deposit. BUT look out for the confirmation packet. With so many pages, it might feel like a huge burden, but it is necessary for the safety and well being of your child. That being said, we at the office have had our problems processing this large amount of paper work. We have made some changes to our receipt process and filing, content on the Parent Consent form, and the file. The changes for parents are:

- You will get only one file in the email confirmation. All forms that you need are contained in that file.
- You will no longer check off desired programs on the Parent Consent Form- you will need to call the office for additions such as, store funds, bussing, holdover, horseback, etc.

We hope this will eliminate errors for both us and parents. Please contact us anytime with questions or suggestions for this process. We welcome them all.

We wish all you a happy and healthy year and look forward to seeing everyone next summer.

Our very best,

Amy Goodman

603-569-2725 ext. 222

Facilities Update: Tom Marden, Facilities Director

At camp we are all getting into our fall routine of putting things away, winterizing Camp, and making plans for repairs and future projects. We had a productive summer and we overcame a number of breakdowns (there was one week that every boat in camp had problems!) and lots of wet weather.

Even so, the service crew, along with their regular duties, did a lot of painting and repairs. The grey pick-up has a new clutch and front brakes, the 'Salty Dog' is repaired, we have a new tennis shed, three new storage sheds, and by next season will have the new Trail Section bathroom ready to go. There are also plans to address Trail Section erosion issues, road repair, and we also have the building permit for a lumber storage shed that will be attached to the maintenance building.

Mike McCarthy and I will be busy with renovations and equipment repair as well as snow removal most of the winter.



Amy Goodman:
Office Manager



Tom Marden:
Facilities Director and Assistant
Director of Sandy Island



Register for Camp Right Now

To Register for Camp Right Now:

Email: agoodman@ymcaboston.org

Amy will send you our updated 2010 registration card via email as our website is currently under construction. Our online registration will be open shortly. Thank you for your patience!



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YMCA's 1st ANNUAL FALLFEST

Camping Services is holding its first ever FALLFEST which is a celebration-of-fall fund raiser with activities for the kids and a community yard sale for the adults. All proceeds go toward sending kids to Camp for Summer 2010. Activities include: Make your own Caramel Apple Bar, Pumpkin Carving Competition, Scarecrow Building, Climbing Wall, Archery, Face Painting and a BBQ. If you would like to set up a table in the yard sale or would like to volunteer to run a booth please contact: Megan Fichter at 603-569-2725 ext. 228 or email mfichter@ymcaboston.org.

Hats off to America on the Move Week

America on the Move Week is a YMCA program that takes place all over America during the last week of September. It is a program developed to combat our Nation's growing obesity rate by offering free gym trials and exercise classes to those who need a hand exploring their local exercise options. Basically it's designed to get people moving more and eating healthier by giving them a free sampling of what programs are out there for them.

As most of you know, we here at Camp do not have a gym, pool or exercise classes, so we brought in some local people who did:

Holly Williams (my kid sister) volunteered her time and equipment teaching Les Mills Body Pump classes on Monday and Tuesday. Denise Williams (my Mother) got together a group of country line dancers, composed of both beginners and intermediates, and instructed two hours' worth of line dancing steps which, let me tell you, is quite a work out both mentally and physically! Our America on the Move Week line-up also featured: yoga, stress management, group running and aerobics.

It is my hope that next year our turn-out for this program will be even bigger than it was this September. Thank you to our volunteers for all of your hard work and your precious time.

Megan Fichter, Community Program Coordinator



Red Cross Training Available, become Certified in:

- Lifeguarding
- Babysitting (ages 11-15)
- First Aid, CPR & AED

If interested in taking a course, please call or email
Megan Fichter: mfichter@ymcaboston.org
Tel: 603-569-2725 ext. 228



Together, we can save a life

It's not too early to register for our camp!



Kate Lemay:
Sandy Island Director



Elizabeth Young: Director
Pleasant Valley Camp



Megan Fichter: Community
Program Coordinator

Something for YOU: Kate Lemay, Sandy Island Director

Greetings from Sandy Island! I wanted to extend my deepest thanks for everyone's kind words and gracious acceptance of an outsider as director of Sandy Island. I loved my first year as director and my family and I are grateful to have enjoyed such a magical place with so many wonderful people. I can see why everyone returns year after year!

Please let me know if I can do anything to make your stay with us better-My email is klemay@ymcaboston.org or call 603-569-2725 ext. 225.

Sandy Island has a reputation of being a full camp, which is awesome! However, I wanted to take this moment to let you know that Sandy Island was not full this past summer, and has not been for the past few years. We have openings weeks 1, 8, 9, and Labor Day weekend. So tell your friends about your Island. We have a feature article about the Island hitting in *Budget Travel* magazine in March, so we wanted you to get the first shot at filling the open weeks before a larger portion of the traveling public finds out about Sandy.

I also want to give you a heads up about a unique opportunity for you at Sandy Island in 2010. This past May, I assisted in creating a healing and wellness weekend with a friend, Kim Grace. We felt a desire to bring people together and were grateful to have the opportunity to call Sandy Island our home for the inaugural year. The event was sponsored by Summit Health New Hampshire and a handful of international and local companies. It was a two night, three day gathering of approximately 50 people from many backgrounds. We enjoyed fellowship of others from 16 months to 75 years of age. Men, women, couples, families; people gathered from as far away as Nebraska, and as close as our back yard. We did not really know what to expect, but I will tell you that I have been part of many retreats, and this was the most transformational weekend I have ever experienced! It was the perfect way to start off my summer.

Our keynote speaker was a woman named Louise Olivi from Connecticut. She is a kind, gentle woman who is living a very authentic life. She shared her gifts with us and in turn, the community that was formed was miraculous. At most retreats the presenters hide away after their presentations; at this event everyone stuck around and enjoyed each other.

We created a balanced weekend using talented local practitioners, educators, and coaches. The recreation and beauty of Sandy Island was the perfect setting. I think open minds and sharing of our neighbors and friends is what was so powerful (not to mention a fabulous goody bag, I just love a good goody bag!). We all have so many gifts to share and retreat weekends are a way for us to rekindle our personal passions. It is a time to schedule personal pampering (each guest received a complimentary massage or treatment!), genuinely connect with others and yourself, create, plan, dream big, focus on what truly matters for you away from life's everyday distractions. We offered workshops on Feng Shui, creating vision boards, working with master life coaches, as well as relationship workshops, healing circles, gentle movement classes like yoga, Thai Chi and a mind/body drumming and dance class, a financial wellness workshop, and a class in discovering your authentic self.

So often we care for everyone around us, and forget that if we are not cared for, we cannot serve others to our greatest capacity. Take care of yourself, and you will be amazed at what you are capable of returning to your family, friends and community.

If this sounds like something for you or someone you know, please save the date. This year we will be conducting a healing and arts weekend June 4-6, 2010 at Sandy Island. Save the date, fill a cabin, plan to bring your friends! Information will be available at www.elementsofenlightenment.com <<http://www.elementsofenlightenment.com>> in November and we hope to see you there! Treat yourself! You and your loved ones - you will be glad you did!

Kate Lemay
Senior Program Director
& Director of Sandy Island

Live on purpose. Create conscious communities. Leave this world a better place.
- Elements of Enlightenment

Sandy Island
Family Camp

 **YMCA**
GREATER BOSTON
It's all inside the Y.

New Hampshire Camp Directors Association Visits Camp: Liz Young, PVC director

The NHFDA (New Hampshire Camp Directors Organizations) is an organization that represents the licensed summer camps in New Hampshire and includes about 100 camps who are members. North Woods and Pleasant Valley are members of this organization and we offered to be the site for this year's NHFDA fall professional workshop. We had a strong registration and welcomed 100 camping professionals for the day on October 8th.

The day began with registration and camaraderie in the Todaro Leadership Center. After being welcomed by Artie Lang, the program began; The topic of the day: "New norms in camping". As a group we listened to various experiences that camps had during the summer of 2009. Information from the weather, ways to reduce your budget, and how to handle H1N1 were all presented. After some informative discussion, it was time for the group to move down to Mac Hall where Jim Burke had prepared lunch for us all. Again stories and information were shared over lunch and it was almost as loud as it is during the summer (excluding the singing!).

Camp Tours followed lunch where all who were in attendance had an opportunity to see and ask questions about North Woods and Pleasant Valley. Afterwards, it was back to Mac Hall for a presentation and questions from the state of New Hampshire folks who oversee camp licensing. Then the group broke up into small discussion groups to look at burning issues such as school groups, technology, alumni development and financial aid. We all came back together for thanks and farewell, and then it was time for everyone to return to their own camp to continue planning for the 2010 season!

It was a fun and informative day and it is always great to have a chance to show off our wonderful camps.

Pleasant Valley
Camp for Girls



Laughing Loon Day Camp News: Megan Fichter, Community Program Coordinator

Well it was yet another fun-filled summer at the Laughing Loon Day Camp. This summer we tried something new: the Laughing Loon Log, our weekly newsletter, was emailed home at the end of each one week session. It included pictures of the Campers having fun doing different activities along with humorous blurbs highlighting the events of each week.

We had some really wonderful staff this year who were able to come up with special themes such as the first ever Day Camp Color War, Olympics Week, Scavenger Hunts and Water Relays. We continued our Thursday Overnight Camp Outs where Campers are given the opportunity to sleep out in the field in tents and cook dinner over a camp fire. The most memorable evening was when we got a call from a Camper's Mom at 9pm to let us know a hurricane was to pass through our area in 20 minutes! Boy was that an adventure! Thank goodness for the Todaro Leadership Center and its theater-like sound and big screen. The movie "Happy Feet" drowned out the thunder and the lightning and the kids had a blast having a sleepover in such a large room.

For Summer 2010, Day Camp is offering up some new hot dishes; the first is that we will be opening camp two weeks early (sorry, just day camp!). The local school districts are letting their students out three weeks early next summer so that the construction workers will have more uninterrupted time to finish renovating Kingswood High School. The second is that we will be offering our own Counselors in Training Program for teens 13-15 years of age. Participants will be trained in either Red Cross Babysitter's Training or Lifeguard Training depending on their ages and get hands-on experience working with Day Campers ages 6-12. We encourage you to contact Camp with any questions about this program: Megan Fichter 603-569-2725 ext. 228 or mfichter@ymcaboston.org.

Laughing Loon Day Camp



Reach Out

Power in Numbers...

Many of you Camp families out there know all about the store account that you have set up for your campers attending overnight Camp. But did you know that this year so many parents told us to give their Campers' unspent store balances to our Reach Out Campaign that it accumulated to \$2,218.00?!

Because so many people gave bits and pieces of left-over money, our Campaign is now able to send four kids to overnight Camp for two weeks at 50% off, or send 10 local kids to a week of Day Camp for free!

On behalf of Camping Families experiencing tough financial times this year:

Thank you so much to those of you who said, "Just put the rest into the Reach Out Fund."

Congratulations to our Reach Out Raffle Winners!

- 1st place: Emily Patel won \$1,000
- 2nd Place: Heidi Cronin won a Session at North Woods or Pleasant Valley Overnight Camp.
- 3rd Place: Liz Manney won Labor Day Weekend at Sandy Island for a family of four.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Reach Out Raffle- Because of you, we collected a whopping \$7,278.00 to put toward sending families and kids to Camp.



North Woods and Pleasant Valley Camp Wish List

- Fishing Equipment
- .22 Target Rifles
- 4 Wheel Power Mobility Scooter
- Beach Chairs
- Power Tools
- Washers/Dryers
- An Iron or two
- Tractor
- Please note that all donations should be in good repair and working order.
- Please first send a picture of your item prior to mailing or pick-up.
- If you have something that is not on this list that you think may be useful to Camp, please give us a call.
- #603-569-2725 ext. 224

Volunteers

Providing a safe environment for our campers to have fun, grow, interact and develop life skills is the primary goal of the YMCA of Greater Boston Camping staff as well as our valuable volunteers.

If you are interested in joining the Camping Services team, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Amy Goodman, at agoodman@ymcaboston.org or 603-569-2725 ext. 222. Once we receive your intent, we will forward all required volunteer forms and guidelines to you.

Thank you for your consideration,

Artie Lang, Executive Director
alang@ymcaboston.org

CAMPING SERVICES



Front Left to Right: Leah Morgenstern, Ally McNamara, Sara Gleason, Abbie Rogers, Sammy Mae Driscoll
On ladder: Courtney Doyle

A Summary of the Summer: Graeme Donald, NW Camp Director

Hey Everyone,

It's been a month now since I made it home from Camp and I have finally started to adjust to the real world again. Now that I am able to look back at the summer and think about it as a whole I can see just how successful a season it was.

We had to battle through the rain during the start of the summer and yet we managed to keep the energy high and the activities fun. I don't remember a summer that started so wet and although we would like to avoid another one in the near future, I was delighted to see just how well we managed to keep Camp going.

As the weather improved, the regular activities associated with camp began. However, this year we made a pledge to avoid replaying activities week in and week out, and instead we looked for fresh ideas and twists on old classics. The L.I.T.s also had the chance to plan and help run an evening activity which always helps us, as they have a better idea of the parts of activities the campers enjoy and the parts they find boring.

Our theme days were a hit again this summer, but they are always a work in progress. I will never forget the sight of Steve Neill bursting into the Great Hall dressed as the Hulk and Batman bursting in from the other side. Both men were followed by their supporting cast from DC and Marvel Comics to begin the start of my favorite theme day of the summer.

After viewing all the reports and evaluations from the summer, we now have a list of new things to begin working on. We are hoping to strive towards making more out of the camp traditions that separate us from other Camps and bring back a bit of the North Woods magic. It was a fantastic summer which was highlighted by the fact that not a single camper left Camp earlier than had been planned, something I hadn't seen in all my summers at Camp. However we know we still have a lot of work to do to make sure next summer is even better.

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who helped make it a truly memorable summer: staff, campers, friends, families and neighbors. And thanks to everyone in advance for any efforts made to make 2010 even better

All the best from Scotland



Life After Camp: Michaelagh Shea, Past PVC Sr. Staff Member

I tell people about Camp all the time. Family, friends, colleagues- I've babbled to them all, filling them in on the crazy stories, the ridiculous-yet-wonderful costume combinations, the dance moves, the spontaneous celebrations... all those small little things that made me want to fast-forward the school year and drive right back up to that silly, wonderful place.

Thinking of all the good things that have come into my life because I chose to go to Camp, I smile. It's been a place where I've laughed, cried, and fallen in love. It's where I've bonded with friends over late-night helpings of chocolate chip cookies, had the best "girl talks" of my life, and spent hours of fun creating overly-complicated ways to ensure we escaped wild animals in the dark.

At Camp, I wasn't just a camper, or a counselor, or a member of Senior Staff. Instead, I think of my years at Camp as the days of a dancer, a full-time singer, a make-up artist, an outdoor chef, a sister, a friendly neighbour, and a jokester, all wrapped up in one. It's been a place where I've not only learned to be myself, but I've learned what "being myself" actually means. At Camp, I've found out what makes me happy, what's important to me, and what I want out of life. I consider it to have been the most special gift; offering me some of the greatest moments, opportunities, and memories I could have imagined. 13, 19, 45, or 60 years old, Camp will always be nestled into my life, as full of its madness and crazy loves as ever, there to make me smile and laugh whenever I need it. In my own small, special way, I can be a kid forever.

I can't wait.

Being a C.I.T.: Sara Gleason, PVC Counselor in Training

After going through PVC's C.I.T. Program last summer, I can tell you that it was my favorite summer (out of 7) at PVC! I loved being able to live in a cabin with all of my friends, while still having some responsibilities and freedoms. I really got a chance to bond with and help out the campers like I never have before.

I had one experience up at Chases' Platform with Pegasus (my baby cabin) 1st session when a girl I was sitting next to around the campfire got homesick and began to cry. I talked to her and comforted her for a couple of minutes, but she continued to cry. The Head Counselor of that cabin came over to calm the girl down and I was able to observe her handle and talk to the homesick camper. It was a wonderful, hands-on way of learning to work with homesickness. I was able to have multiple experiences such as that as a C.I.T. and I know I will learn even more as a Counselor.



**Pleasant Valley
Camp for Girls**



Local Midweek Holiday Camps are Coming...

Calendar of Events

- 10/18: Y FALLFEST
- 10/31: Halloween
- 11/1: Daylight Savings Ends
- 11/11: Veterans' Day
- 11/23-25: Turkey Day Camp
- 11/26: Thanksgiving
- 12/11: Hanukkah Begins
- 12/25: Christmas
- 12/28-30: Reindeer Camp
- 1/1: New Year's Day

Turkey Day Camp is coming up November 23rd-25th Monday, Tuesday and/or Wednesday from 9am-5pm. Activities include: pumpkin centerpiece building, dessert making, scarecrow building, field games, archery, and more. Daily snack is included in the cost. Cost is \$40 per child per day or \$110 per child for all three days. This program is for children ages 6-12.

Reindeer Day Camp will be held for children 6-12 years of age on Wednesday the 23rd from 9am-5pm. Activities include: Christmas crafts, party games, snowy play time, holiday movie on the big screen, and more. This program is a great way for parents to get a day to themselves to finish up last minute shopping, baking and wrapping! Daily Snack is included in the cost. \$40 per person.



Where's Laura?: Lara Eberlein, PVC Assistant Director

Hello from the middle of the country! Life in Des Moines, Iowa is going along smoothly. I am busy teaching a great group of 4th graders, who are currently learning all about the Northeast. They think it's really cool that I've been there! My fiancé Tim and I have spent the weeks since camp planning our May wedding. We have the locations set, I have my wedding dress, and we found a D.J., but there is so much more to do!



Lara Eberlein and Fiancé Tim Balk Jump for Joy on a vacation in South Dakota.

As I watched snow fall from the sky on Saturday morning, I started missing camp. I was so busy when I got home in August that I didn't have much time to reminisce. With the clouds and cold weather moving in I can't help but wish for the sunny, warm days of summer. I miss the beautiful New Hampshire woods and crystal, clear Lake Winnepesaukee. I also miss taking pictures of the smiling faces of staff and campers enjoying all the activities camp has to offer! If you're missing camp too as the cold weather moves in, it's never too early to start thinking about Summer 2010.

Congratulations Lara & Tim!



Help us Reach our Goal!

If you have not made a donation to our Reach Out Campaign which raises money to help send financially struggling families to Camp don't worry. It's never too late to show your support!

Simply dial the number below to make a pledge; we take checks and credit cards and can even set up a payment plan that works for you!

(603) 569-2727 ext: 222

V o l u n t e e r

YMCA Boston Teen Retreat a Success: Katherine Doyle, PVC Head Counselor

My name is Katherine Doyle, I was a head counselor at Pleasant Valley Camp over the summer. I had the privilege of coming back up to camp for the first weekend of October to work with a group of YMCA teens from the city of Boston. It was a group of approximately 30 kids, with 8-10 chaperones.

The kids arrived during the late afternoon, ate lunch, then made it quickly down to the Junior and Middle villages on the Pleasant Valley side to where they would be sleeping for the night. Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate with our ideal preferences for the day, but the kids still participated in arts and crafts, basketball and archery. After the activity stations were finished, they were able to go back to their cabins, dry off, and have some down time before dinner. After dinner we did three more stations of evening activities that consisted of Pictionary, charades, and a mix of mind games and music dance activities. We ended the night with a good round of the "Funky Chicken", and s'mores by the fire.

The next morning the kids made it to breakfast in Mac hall, and proceeded to the upper ball field for a huge game of ultimate Frisbee, or nature walks for those who weren't up for an intense early morning work-out. After both activities were finished everyone joined in for a big tournament of dodge ball, which was a hit (pun intended)! The group then headed down the hill for lunch which finished up their retreat.

My favorite part of the retreat was seeing not only the kids but the chaperones pull themselves away from the cell phones, iPods, and gaming devices, and get into the amazing parts about Camp that we were trying to express to them through the interactive activities, goofy songs and stories. It was obvious that it was a struggle for them, but we eventually got them to embrace just a small part of what we enjoy during the entire summer. I enjoyed leading the activity of the nature walks on Sunday morning because it was the first time a lot of them had been surrounded by nature. Even simple trails such as the Great Trail and the Milky Way - trails we walk everyday during the summer - were something brand new to them.

The retreat was a fun experience to help out with, although I would have used any excuse to go back to Camp for a night!

-Katherine Doyle

A Thank You to Emma and Katherine: Meg Fichter, Community Program Coordinator

Not only do I want to thank Katherine Doyle for coming up here to help out in a pinch, but I also need to extend a great big THANK YOU to Emma Madden as well. It is because these awesome and talented ladies took time away from their college weekends to come up to Camp and extend a hand to us, that the Boston Y Teen group was able to have a memorable and authentic Camp experience..

It always amazes me (as a year round staffer and Day Camp director) how truly "Camp" our overnight staffers really are. Their heads are packed full of songs, games, riddles and behavior management strategies that they bust out whenever they feel the need. Their willingness to try anything and their ability to spread their playful energy to those around them insure that others will always enjoy themselves.

Emma and Katherine saved the Y Teen Retreat this fall, and I am not exaggerating! Without their energy and experience, the rain and cold would have gotten this group down in the dumps very quickly. Because of the efforts of these two girls, they stayed in good spirits despite the weather and are chomping at the bit to return again next spring.

So again,

Emma and Katherine, thank you so much for your Help!



Left: Volunteers work on building a new tennis shed for North Woods and Pleasant Valley Camps during the Memorial Day Work Weekend of 2009.

See article on page 11.

Reaching Out to Camp: Di Todaro, Camping Services Board Chair



Camping Board Chair,
Di Todaro hiking this
summer with husband Sam.

Get to Know Your Camping Board:

Jay Barry
Nancy Bradford
Peter Chatellier
Andy Doyle
Di Todaro Getman
Beth Griffin
Eric Henchey
Patrice Kish
Bob Monahan
Walter Parkinson
John Trump

Sandy Island Committee:

Judy Grohe
Mark Pinis
Beth Howell
Peg Chatellier
Wendy Keilin
Bill Goldberg
Ellie Goldberg
Paul Mason
Lynn Slobodin
Ellen Dunn
Mary Wendel

Hello Camping Friends!

The summer of 2009 was another very successful one at all of the camps, lead by an exceptional executive and senior staff. In addition, they had some extra help. I am amazed at the number of people who donate their time, talent and/or treasure to camp every year. It occurred to me that we would be severely challenged to open our doors each summer without their help. It is my personal opinion that we have the greatest volunteers in the history of camps, and I want to say a big thank you to all of you reading this who volunteered your time this year!

The kickoff of summer began with approximately fifty alumni showing up for a Memorial Day work weekend at NW/PVC. Special thanks to Steve Todaro, Jim & Annie Adams and their crew for grabbing the tennis shed project by the horns and putting in many hours over the course of a week to get it almost completely done. What they couldn't quite finish Old Timer & board member John Trump did, with the help of the NW Service Crew. We had another twenty volunteers throughout the summer, including board members Beth Griffin who helped with staff training and Eric Henchey who provided food service advice. Walter Parkinson again spent over four weeks toiling in the kitchen and leading the campers in spirited song at mealtimes. The riflery staff was extremely grateful to John Putnam for his amazing preseason training and we appreciate the Keeler family's annual support of the photography program.

At Sandy Island we have the unique challenge of getting the island ready in the few short weeks between when the ice goes out and the arrival of the first weekend groups. We had many volunteers for pre and post season weekends – about ten on any given work weekend - who were critical to having the island ready in time. In addition, there is a unique group of volunteers at Sandy who are unlike any other I have ever come across - we call them: The Weekenders. We aren't talking about volunteers who show up a few weekends each summer. The members of this exclusive society volunteer their time essentially EVERY weekend, from spring to fall, at Sandy Island, and have been doing so for upwards of 25 years. They are Doug Chisholm, Beth Magnuson, Mary Driscoll, Tim and Diana Delany O'Hara and the late Paul Maxwell. If you have not been to Sandy Island on a weekend it is hard to explain how important they are to the basic functioning of camp. They keep it running all summer long. I am completely impressed with their dedication, talent and commitment. I can't thank you enough!

The Camping Board and the Sandy Island Camp Committee members round out the list of camping friends who volunteer their time on a monthly basis throughout the year. To all of you who give of your time and talent, and to the families who support your efforts, I want you to know how much you are appreciated!

This leads me to the next group of camp supporters to thank - our donors. Year to date 484 individuals donated \$135,350 to our Reach Out Campaign, which provides scholarships to families who are struggling to pay for camp. This summer we sent 243 campers and 12 families to camp who otherwise would not have been able to attend. Reach-Out donors, you should all be very proud of yourselves! We received another \$7,500 in individual donations for projects and approximately \$10,000 worth of in-kind gifts. George Randall kindly donated a barge and Mary Driscoll a fire truck for Sandy Island!

If you are reading this article and are wondering how you can become more involved with camp, it just so happens that we have opportunities for you! We are actively seeking new camping board members with a variety of backgrounds. Volunteers with carpentry, plumbing or electrical skills are always in high demand. Nurses or doctors looking to volunteer for a session at Camp would be pretty much at the top of our list of dream volunteers. Our Reach-Out Campaign is just around the corner, we will be starting call nights in January. We can always use help on our call nights which are usually held in the Boston area. We also have an unlimited amount of donor positions available! In addition to the scholarship fund, we are working on formalizing ways to donate to a specific project at a specific camp. Stay tuned for more information on capital projects and ways to donate.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer or donation opportunities, please do not hesitate to call Artie or myself. To those of you who donated your time, talent or treasure this year, you should feel incredibly proud of all you do for camp. Thank you, thank you!

Best,
Di

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